the pH. To each gallon size plant (twice the amount for egg cans) sprinkle one level tablespoon of hydrated lime on dry. Now water well. Dolomite would do the same thing when used at the rate of one half cup per plant but to see results one would have to wait about 6 weeks to two months. Now stir up the surface of the soil with a screwdriver to loosen the soil so that the roots can breathe.

For the next two months fertilize with only an ammoniated nitrate. Potash and phosphoric acid will not be needed immediately as these elements have been tied up with the low pH. They will tend to become available now that the pH is being raised. Use the ammoniated nitrate at the rate of one level tablespoon to a gallon of water. Saturate the soil. At the end of the two month period go back to a complete fertilizer containing trace elements as well.

As assurance again have the soil tested for pH. If still not correct your County Agent can give you the correct steps to take.

For these container grown hibiscus the easiest course is to start with the proper mix. For a normal average good mix when using half sand and half peat, or even 60% peat the following is advised. To a cubic yard (3'x3'x3') add 10 pounds of Dolomite and 2½ pounds superphosphate. Mix well. If possible sterilize the mix with live steam or a soil fumigent.

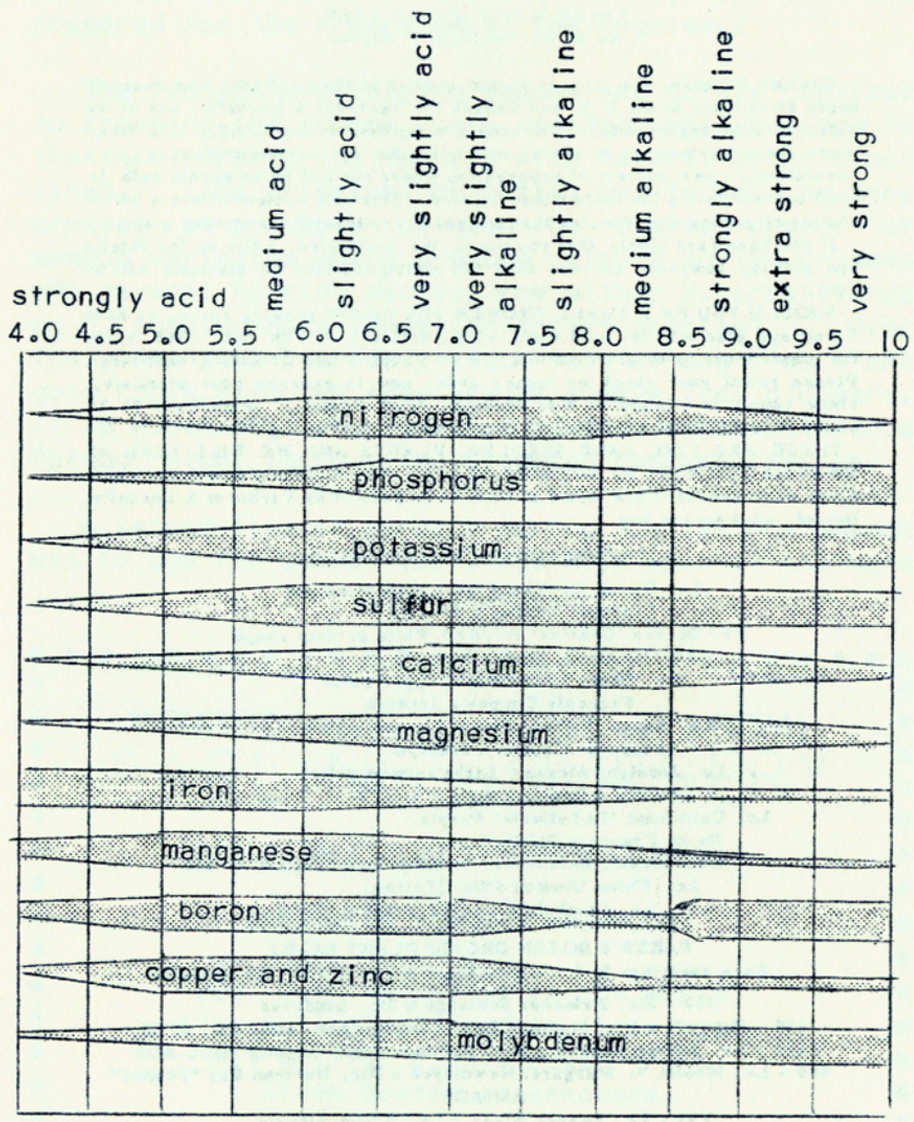
Most important of all is to work all this out through your local County Agricultural Agent and research center in Gainesville.

The chart on the next page shows the relation of available plant nutrients to the pH of the soil. The chart is adapted from the book "Hunger Signs in Crops" by Hugh Sprague.

Happy Hibiscus to you all.

(See next page)

HOW SOIL pH AFFECTS AVAILABILITY OF PLANT NUTRIENTS



The width of the bar determines the relative availability of each element with a change in soil reaction.

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